

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 /063 W

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R 031419Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2151

AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 14366

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN PINT ET SZ

SUBJECT: PMAC ANNOUNCES EX-EMPEROR'S AGREEMENT TO RETURN
FINANCIAL HOLDINGS

REF: ADDIS 13655

1. DEC 1 ETHIOPIAN HERALD ANNOUNCED NOV 30 PROVISIONAL
MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) DISCLOSURE THAT FORMER
EMPEROR, " OF HIS OWN FREE WILL", HAD SIGNED LETTER AUTHORIZING
TRANSFER OF ALL HER PERSONAL AND FAMILY FANANCIAL HOLDINGS IN
ETHIOPIAN AND FOREIGN BANKS TO GOE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
COMMISSION (RRC) FOR USE IN DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES. PMAC
STATEMENT NOTED THAT EX-EMPEROR AUTHORIZED TRANSFER TO
"ALLEVIATE THE GRAVE PROBLEM FACING THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE ON
ACCOUNT OF THE SERIOUS NATURAL DISASTER." THESE FUNDS INCLUDE
"FORTUNES ENTRUSTED TO CORPORATIONS, COMPANIES, PRIVATE
INDIVIDUALS, LONG AND SHORT TERM INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS, BULLIONS(S)
AND OTHER PRECIOUS STONES, AND IN GENERAL ALL MOVABLE AND
IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES IN ETHIOPIA AND ABROAD". ALL CASH
AND PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF NON-MONETARY ASSETS WILL BE
TRANSFERRED TO RRC. THOSE PROPERTIES THAT CANNOT BE SOLD WILL
BE RETAINED AND INCOME SO DERIVED WILL "GO TOWARDS THE BENEFIT
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OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AT LARGE."

2. ACCORDING TO PMAC STATEMENT FORMER EMPEROR HAS NOT SAID WHERE HOLDINGS ARE KEPT OR HOW MUCH THEY ARE WORTH, BUT PMAC IS UNDERTAKING AN "INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO UNCOVER THIS INFORMATION." PMAC FURTHER NOTED THAT RECENT INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SPECULATION ON VALUE OF EX-EMPEROR'S HOLDINGS IS PREMATURE SINCE ALL THAT IS KNOWN ABOUT THEIR VALUE IS CONTAINED IN EX-EMPEROR'S LETTER.

3. COMMENT: TO DATE PMAC UNABLE TO PROVIDE SWISS EMBASSY HERE WITH REQUIRED INFORMATION THAT WOULD ALLOW PMAC ACCESS TO EX-EMPEROR'S SWISS ASSETS. WE SUSPECT THAT PMAC DECIDED TO RELEASE LETTER, WHICH PROBABLY SIGNED PRIOR NOVEMBER 15 (REFTEL,, IN ORDER TO GIVE SOME PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF MOVEMENT SINCE NOV 23 EXECUTIONS.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE GENEVA
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